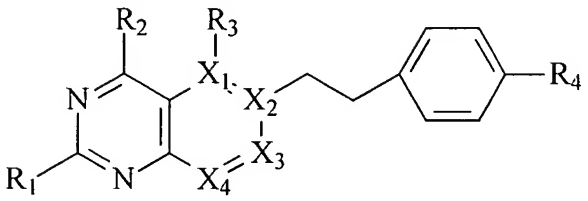
We Claim:

1. A process for synthesizing compounds having the formula:

(I)



;

wherein R_1 and R_2 are each individually amino or N-alkyl substituted amino; hydroxy; alkoxy; keto; lower alkyl; or a nitrogen or oxygen protecting group;

R_3 is hydrogen; hydroxy; alkoxy; trifluoromethyl alkoxy; halo; sulfhydryl or alkylthio;

R_4 is hydroxy; alkoxy; or -C(O)-X;

X is hydroxy; alkoxy; or an amino acid residue; and

X_1, X_2, X_3 and X_4 are each individually carbon or nitrogen; said process comprising the steps of:

a) providing a starting reagent capable of being cyclized to a 2,4-disubstituted fused aromatic nitrogen-containing heterocycle;

b) cyclizing the starting reagent of step a) in a single step to form the 2,4-disubstituted fused aromatic nitrogen-containing heterocycle; then

c) creating a reactive moiety at C6 of the 2,4-disubstituted fused aromatic nitrogen-containing heterocycle;

d) coupling a 4-substituted aromatic ring fragment having a leaving group at the terminus of the 4-substituted moiety for coupling to the C6 reactive moiety of the 2,4-disubstituted fused aromatic nitrogen-containing heterocycle to form the formula I compound.

2. The process of Claim 1 wherein the reactive moiety is a nitrogen-based leaving group.